



# TEAM FOCUS

Aug/Sept/Oct 2016

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.*



**Mike Gottfried**

## Happy Fall

Team Focus is thankful for another successful year filling the father gap. We could not do what we do without our volunteers, mentors, donors and prayer warriors. Across the country, 2016 has held seven inspiring summer leadership camps, two energizing banquets, one fruitful golf tournament, and countless mini camps, outings, Wisdom Centers and Bible studies. All of these things are made possible by support from you! We are thankful for you and your families and your businesses. We are thankful that you have a burden for the fatherless young men across this country. We pray that you will continue to support Team Focus through your gifts, service and petitions. God Bless you and your families throughout the rest of 2016 and through 2017.

## 'Tis the Season of Giving!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

It is one thing to quote a scripture. Quoting scripture is nice, dandy, and it feels good. Yet, to actually give of one's self to see that scripture fulfilled and come to life is quite a different experience.

EVERY time you donate to Team Focus you are bringing forth the fulfillment of the God-given VISION to Coach Mike & Mrs. Mickey. Where God gives a vision, He always provides for it. So as you read this I would encourage you not to ignore the knocking of the Holy Spirit at the walls of your heart. He just may want you to let Him in to the very area where you have laid your earthly treasures.

This letter is not a beg or a plea, but rather a sound being released into the airwaves. A sound that will catch the attention of those that have ears to hear. For the fact of the matter is this: I write this letter to you as a 21-year old world-changer who is about to graduate from college. I write this letter to you as someone who is unashamed to admit to you that if it had not been for the grace of God allowing the hearts of previous donors to be stirred and causing them to act, I may not have been privileged to have the Team Focus experience that has VERY much molded me and shaped me into the Christ-centered man I am today.

I write this letter to you today NOT so that you can donate and hope you change a life. I write this letter to you today so that you can donate and KNOW that your support WILL CHANGE A LIFE.

In His Love,  
**Mario Butler**



Pictured is Mario (center) with Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions and former Alabama Congressman Jo Bonner at the 2016 TF Nick Saban Fundraising Banquet.



# Guiding Young Men to the Ultimate Victory

## The Team Focus summer leadership camp in Mobile was divided into two camps this year.

There was a camp for the members that were in high school and a separate camp for members in middle school and lower:

- The first camp was held on June 10th thru 12th and it was held for the High schoolers. The camp followed our regular schedule, but included more intense training for their planning after high school. The members interacted in small groups and panel discussions. The high schoolers also heard from businessmen from the community about what they are looking for in new employees.
- The second camp was held on July 8th thru 10th for the middle and elementary school members. This camp was more consistent with the regular Team Focus. The members enjoyed activities such as basketball, group sports, career night, and many other activities. We had many giveaways at both camps and there were around 30 members at each camp. We also recognized our seniors at each camp and allowed them to talk about their future plans.

### **Danny White**

Director Mobile, Alabama Chapter



## Team Focus Mobile, AL Chapter – Nick's Kids Foundation Luncheon



Pictured (left to right) is Team Focus Mobile Chapter Director Danny White, Team Focus Member Zacharah Manderson, Dallas and Andrew White (sons of Danny White), Terry and Nick Saban, Team Focus Mentor Chris Jones and Team Focus Member Elijah Johnson.

Team Focus was presented a check from Nick and Terry Saban.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
VERY GENEROUS  
DONATION!**



# Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow



## Team Focus Austin, Texas Chapter – Team Leadership Camp



**CAMPER OF THE WEEK**  
Cameron Wilkins with Buzz Carruth.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



We enjoyed a great camp this year which was held at Concordia University, Austin, Texas. Our young men enjoyed a volleyball game with NFL & NCAA Champion receiver Jordan Shipley and lunch with the honorable Texas Representative Dan Flynn. Retired UT Head Football Coach David McWilliams was our Leadership Camp Banquet Speaker and did a great job! Mark Henry was our keynote guest and the young men lined up to listen to Mark's message of "No Excuses." But the best moment of camp was that two young men made decisions for Christ. We can't wait for our next Team Focus Texas event!

### **Buzz Carruth**

Austin Area Representative Volunteer



## Team Focus Las Vegas, Nevada Chapter

Pictured is Mike Gottfried, Earl Cox, Team Focus member Louis Fletcher and Sammy Kopalyan (son of Nerses Kopalyan, Team Focus Las Vegas Chapter Director) having lunch after the camp.



### **The Team Focus VISION:**

Young men without a father figure in their lives will be provided with role models and positive influences that will bridge the fatherless gap and help develop them as leaders to become a positive influence in the world and support them in achieving the ultimate victory - walking in the destiny God has planned for them.



# Talking Points with Pastor Rey Dempsey

## God created YOU for a wonderful DESTINY!



You have an exciting, adventurous journey ahead of you, a fabulous future, an out-of-the-box beautiful best life! It's built into your spiritual DNA, but it's up to YOU to discover it and develop it!

You are GIFTED with natural talents! What do you enjoy? Organizing? Creating? Learning from the past? Discovering new things? Solving mechanical problems? Putting things together? Working with numbers? Sports? Dance? Music? Design? Acting? Public Speaking? Technology? Encouraging and helping others? Cooking? Business ideas? Discover what your talents are and develop them!

Ask God to REVEAL your talents and your uniqueness! God may speak to you in that still small voice. He may confirm it through teachers or coaches or parents. He will help you discover the natural things you enjoy, because those are the giftings and talents He placed in you when He created you!

BELIEVE what God says about you! If people around you call you names, put you down, say you're dumb, etc. -- don't believe the lies! God created you in His Image (Body, Soul, Spirit) and He doesn't make junk! Believe that you are perfectly and wonderfully made! Rise up to be the best you can be! God says you are His Workmanship!

COOPERATE with God to develop your talents! Practice, Learn, Develop! God may have given you a musical talent or a sport talent or a mechanical talent, but if you don't practice, and keep learning and developing that talent it will lie dormant and not go anywhere!

NEVER SABATOGUE your Destiny! Avoid wasting time! Don't allow others to mess you up! Only hang out with people who encourage you to grow and develop your talents. Avoid those who try to convince you to do things you know you shouldn't do.

GOD LOVES YOU and is smiling on you! He is watching to see what you will do with the talents He instilled in you before you were even born! It is not your family situation or life circumstances that determine your destiny. It is your daily choices within your situation that shape your destiny! Make good decisions of what you do with your time, energy and effort. Make positive confessions every day that you can do all things through God who strengthens you!

God is FOR you, and so is Team Focus! We are all cheering you on!

**Rey Dempsey**

**TEAM FOCUS wants to identify young men without a father who have leadership qualities and help develop them as leaders. We help our young men reach their destiny and become a positive influence in the world.**

## Team Focus Jacksonville, Florida Chapter



Pictured is (bottom row L to R: Steve Dickson, Malik Jefferson, Chris Faulkner, Tito Walker, Isaiah Walker, Steve Gilbert) (top row LtoR Danny Stallworth, Tabiaz Jefferson, Kimani Jackson, and Kevin Walker) from the recent Jacksonville Jaguars pre-season game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Jaguars have always been one of our biggest supporters since the start. They have provided us with hundreds of tickets to games, field passes for camp awards, and even a tour of the locker room and stadium including a team meeting with a few players and coaches.

**Steve Dickson**

Area Representative Volunteer



## In The Spotlight!

### Mitchell Lowery – Ohio Alumni

The most exciting thing that has happened in my life so far is becoming a member of Team Focus. Team Focus has exposed me to so many things...the main one is that it has brought me closer to God!

Every day God blesses me. He is my father. Everything that has happened in my life is all because of God's blessings.

I was born in Hartford, Connecticut. I feel absent from my early years. I don't remember all the drama surrounded by my parents break-up and memories have slipped from my mind. I was raised by my mother, with my brother who is five years older. We moved around a lot but my mom stayed strong and was there for us.

I was introduced into Team Focus the summer of 2005. The first camp we attended was located on the campus of Howard University. My brother did not want to go at first and I was a little scared, but our mom forced us to go. Because of this amazing opportunity, my life was changed. I met men who were dedicated to God and were great mentors.

Team Focus allowed me to meet the First Lady of the United States in Mobile, Alabama. We also visited Capitol Hill, an Orioles game, and the Secret Service training facility. I had the chance to hear various community leaders speak, such as the Attorney General and the State Attorney for Maryland. We were introduced to the co-founder of Outback Steakhouse, and a current football running back for the Indianapolis Colts. We were taught how to act like gentlemen. Team Focus showed us how to properly dress, how to tie a tie, proper etiquette at a formal dinner, dating advice, and preparation for job interviews.

This organization has helped me realize that other people are going through the same issues I am dealing with. I know as long as I have Team Focus and God in my life I will succeed.

**Mitchell Lowery**



"In the spring of 2016, I graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor of science degree in sports industry and a minor in business. I just completed an internship with the Ohio Machine Professional Lacrosse Team in Columbus, Ohio. While interning with the Machine, I worked with the equipment and marketing departments. Currently, I am in search of new work but I'm faithful that this is God's plan for me and I will find the right job for me and my future."

**THE TEAM FOCUS OHIO CHAPTER WAS BLESSED TO HAVE MITCHELL WORK AS A GRADUATE ASSISTANT (GA) AT THEIR 2016 SUMMMER LEADERSHIP CAMP.**

## God Bless You Mitchell and All the Other Team Focus Alumni!

### Team Focus Kentucky Chapter

The Kentucky Team Focus Chapter held their camp on the Morehead State University campus June 17-20. The camp was a huge success with a host of great speakers from the community and from MSU. We had a fun packed schedule with swimming and basketball at the MSU Wellness Center, softball, fishing and picnic at the residence of one of our local business supporters. We are looking forward to our fall outings.

**Bill Baldridge**

Director of KY Chapter  
Team Focus





# Guiding Young Men to the Ultimate Victory

## Team Focus Ohio Chapter

The 2016 Ohio Summer Leadership Camp was an exciting one. We had 58 campers that enjoyed great speakers, basketball, softball, fishing, bowling and a field trip to the Air Force Guard base in Mansfield, Ohio. The young men participated in business interviews where one camper was chosen as the best interviewer. We had other awards at the end of the camp, such as: camper of the week, best notebook and winner of the Bible test, just to name a few.

**Rocky Alt**

Director of Ohio Chapter

**A very big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that attended the camp and gave up their valuable time to serve these fatherless young men.**



## Team Focus is Making an Impact!

### The Team Focus VISION:

**The mission of Team Focus, Inc. is to provide a year round program of support, encouragement and Godly values that foster the development of life skills in young men (ages 10-18) without a father figure in their lives, bridge the fatherless gap and support the family structure.**

Thank you Team Focus staff for helping me to overcome obstacles in my life and showing me God's way to be an overcomer. You helped me to stay focused. Team Focus has been a positive influence in my life and my mother's. Thank you for pushing me to be a better person, for praying with me and investing encouraging words and showing kindness to us. I really learned a lot and had fun at the events. I will be attending Jones Junior College and I will miss you all. Hopefully, I can come back to volunteer.

Enclosed is an invitation to my graduation...I couldn't have done it without you.

Sincerely,  
**Dejon Leatherwood**  
Mobile Team Focus Chapter Member

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT.**



# Thanks for Giving



"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy."

*William Law*



The Sieve Family



Bob and Linda Sebo

**TEAM FOCUS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONOR FOR YOUR HEARTFELT GIVING. YOU HAVE TRULY BLESSED THE FATHERLESS!**



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## Questions?.....Need Something?.....Want to Say Hi?

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